

# The *Begonian*

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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*Begonia Macrophylla of Martinique*

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## AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, INC.

The purpose of this Society shall be: to promote interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants; to encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants; to standardize the nomenclature of begonias; to gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of begonias and companion plants; to issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the Society; and to bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

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# New Hybrids of Begonia

By DR. GEORGES MOREL

Versailles, France

BEGONIA *imperialis* and all its varieties are extremely attractive plants. The small glistening leaves often adorned by large emerald or silvery marking along the veins shine like velvet.

Besides the wild species and the var. *smaragdina*, imported from Mexico into Belgium in the middle of the last cen-



B. "Decimperia"

ture we grow quite often in Europe two others varieties introduced around 1870 by Froebel, a Swiss horticulturist. One is *B. imperialis Gruss an Erfurt*, also called *B. imperialis maculata*. This plant has dark olive green leaves, with irregular emerald green bands along the veins.

In the other, *B. "Imperialis Otto Forster,"* the leaves are darker and the marking silvery; it is said to be a hybrid of *B. imperialis* x *B. rex* but this seems very dubious since it comes true from seed and doesn't have any of the character of the rex group.

*B. "Silver Pustulata,"* cultivated in the United States for several years, belongs to this group. Its origin is unknown to me but it has many features of *B. imperialis*, the leaves have the same shape.

More recent are the new seedlings of

Mrs. Susie Zug: "Silver Jewel" and "Emerald Jewel," and "Mac Alice" of Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger. I have not yet seen any of these plants which won certificates for Begonia Hybrids of Distinction last year.

Two years ago, I started hybridization with *B. imperialis* in the hope of obtaining plants with the beauty of all the *B. imperialis*, but less temperamental. Two of these hybrids have so far proved to be interesting.

*B. "Meximperia"* is *B. "Imperialis Otto Forster* x *B. mexicana*. The bright green leaves have the shape of the mother, they are lobed and serrate, but they have kept the white silvering marks of the father, along the main veins. The plant is very strong and vigorous and easier to grow than the other *B. imperialis*; it makes compact bushy plants like the hybrids of *B. boweri*. It never becomes lanky as *B. imperialis* often does.

*B. "Decimperia"* is *B. decora* x *B. imperialis smaragdina*. The shape and texture of the leaves are very much the same as in *B. imperialis* but it has kept the reddish colour and the wide clear veins of the mother, *B. decora*. More delicate than the preceding, this lovely plant requires more heat.



B. "Meximperia"

# International Flower Show

AMATEUR begonia growers will find a variety of opportunities to enter their plants in the 41st International Flower Show at the New York Coliseum, March 9-15, 1958, according to R. B. Farnham, executive director.

A total of five classes have been scheduled under the heading of non-professional, non-commercial classes. Begonia categories include fibrous-rooted, rex, rhizomatous and semperflorens varieties. Each class is for a single plant in one pot.

An additional class provides for the entry of three miniature type begonias, any variety or varieties, with pots placed in a container with moisture-holding medium.

Schedules can be obtained from Miss Kari Berggrav, schedule director, International Flower Show, Essex House, 157 West 58th St., New York 19, N.Y.

Mrs. Elsa Fort, eastern chairman of the American Begonia Society, cooperated with the International Flower Show in setting up the begonia classes. Mrs. Fort is (herself) an exhibitor of note and an accredited Begonia Society judge.

In addition to their own entries in the show, begonia enthusiasts will be interested in the spectacular tuberous begonia garden being planned by Thomas Flower Mart.

The entire show will be larger than ever before, with 112 new classes, bringing the total number to 302. It is expected that an increased number of countries will be represented in the International Class, which featured flowers from nine countries last year, and a newly instituted non-commercial section includes 42 plant classes and three flower composition classes open to all amateurs. In addition, there are 75 houseplant classes.

Exhibitors pay no entry fee, and are furnished with free exhibitors' passes. Shipments of out-of-town entries will be accepted by the management of the show, and will be staged and cared for without charge. These exhibits will be returned to the exhibitors after the show.

Judging tables have been revised to

follow plant societies' standard tables so far as possible. In most cases judging will be performed by accredited judges from the recognized societies.

The International Flower Show is sponsored jointly by the Horticultural Society of New York and the New York Florists' Club.

—B—

## NOTE FROM A NEW YORK MEMBER OF A.B.S.:

HERE'S a new way to enter a flower show!—by mail. Why not try it?

If you could see the elaborate preparations that are being made to care for plants entered by mail! Entrants will receive special suggestions for safe packing, and fool-proof identification of the plants' owners. Professional personnel from a greenhouse that specializes in begonias and geraniums will handle the plants on arrival, care for them during the week of the show, and pack them for the return trip. Although the show management cannot, naturally, assume responsibility—you can feel sure that your entry will receive the same kind of loving care you give it, yourself.

Wherever you live—Texas, Oklahoma, California—wouldn't it be fun to enter the New York show? Why not try it?

BERNICE BRILMAYER

—B—

## THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR

*Take Time to Live:* It is the secret of success.

*Take Time to Think:* It is the source of power.

*Take Time to Play:* It is the secret of youth.

*Take Time to Read:* It is the foundation of knowledge.

*Take Time for Friendship:* It is the source of happiness.

*Take Time to Laugh:* It is the help that lifts life's load.

*Take Time to Dream:* It hitches the soul to the stars.

*Take Time for God:* It is life's only lasting investment.

# Southland African Violets and Allies

By CHARLOTTE M. HOAK

*Reprint from Ind.-Star News*

I have just finished reviewing a most interesting book, "African Violets, Gloxinias and Their Relatives," and believe that it is the best of its kind available. If you are interested in the cultivated gesneriads you will like this book.

Of course many of us have succumbed to the African violets. They are the apartment flowers that satisfy the longings of those denied a place in the good earth or from journeying into the byways of botany.

Most of us are familiar with African violets and gloxinias, but how many of us know the brilliant assemblage widespread in the tropical regions of the world—the gesneriads? This new book, published by Macmillan Publishing Co. covers the entire field.

The author, Harold E. Moore, Jr., is a scholar of high rank, an acknowledged authority in his field, an associate professor at Cornell University and has degrees from the University of Massachusetts and Harvard.

The book stands out as being one in which you will find a detailed study of the various members of the gesneriad family. It gives you an abundance of wonderful material for window ledges, greenhouses and gardens. Included also is detailed cultural directions, methods of propagation, hybridization and pest control. The book is liberally illustrated.

This is the first time that this ornamental family has been so artistically portrayed. You linger long over the exquisite colors and when you have finished the book you know exactly how the flowers look. You will want to grow some of the gorgeous episcias, violet-tinted sinningias and many others depicted.

Seeds are not expensive. One of our local bulb specialists advertises seeds of gloxinias, streptocarpus and smithiantha at very low prices. We have long grown

## *Your Membership Secretary*

WE RECENTLY visited with the Parent Chapter at their birthday meeting. Hamburgers and all the trimmings were the evenings fare finished off with a beautiful birthday cake and ice cream.

What does a birthday at this chapter mean? Their annual commemoration is in truth the anniversary of The American Begonia Society for the seven charter members of this chapter are the founders of this organization.

Mr. Herbert P. Dyckman and six others met and formed a group to meet regularly that would afford an opportunity to exchange growing ideas and culture information on begonias. Little did they realize their organization would become incorporated, develop many branches in the United States, and its membership extends throughout the world.

Through all the years this original chapter has remained a hospitable group bringing fellowship and knowledge to many people in the Long Beach area.

W. E. (BILL) WALTON

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achimenes, one of the most beautiful hanging basket plants you can imagine.

In writing about perennials in a previous column I recommended the substitution of *Rehmannia angulata* in place of the unreliable foxglove. This is what I learned from the new book. Dr. Moore goes into detail concerning those perennials which have not always been considered members of the gesneriad family.

There are six species or more of these all coming from China, Japan and Formosa. They are hardy in our area and perhaps their greatest asset is their usefulness as bedding plants for the open border.

*Rehmannia elata* is the most common one in the United States and it is usually grown under the name of *R. angulata*. Make your entry into this interesting gesneriad family if you do not have greenhouse facilities. *Streptocarpus* is easy to raise and *achimenes* baskets are a pleasant variation from fuchsias and begonias in the shade garden.

# Growing Begonias . . . Under Fluorescent Lights

By MRS. J. DALE SHULER  
Lexington, Ohio

THE GROUND is covered with snow and this is the kind of weather and the time of year that I enjoy my begonias the most. It is very cold this morning and everything is covered with frost. I have my typewriter in front of my upstairs bay window which originally had a window seat but somehow it has become a small green house and is full of begonias. As I look out of the window I see a tall spruce at the back of the house which towers many feet above the house and it is three stories at the back. As I look at the tree I marvel at the wonders of a seed, for many years ago my husband planted the seed that grew that tree and many others that we have on the place. I guess he has roots here too as the farm has been in the family for over one hundred years.

I sat down to write about my experiences growing begonias under artificial light and not trees—But isn't a begonias seed a wonderful thing? That tiny dust like particle will grow into a beautiful begonia and in much less time than it takes to grow a spruce tree from a seed.

My experiences with growing begonias under fluorescent lights is still in the experimental stage but I am pleased with the results I have had so far. I have read a great deal about growing African Violets, Gloxinias and other gesneriads but have never read of any one growing begonias under artificial light. Growing begonias is my hobby and over the years I have grown over one hundred and fifty different varieties. Being a window gardener I am always looking for a place to put another plant. I also raise a great many other plants and last winter I had quite a few African Violets. When I brought my begonias in from their summer outdoors a year ago last fall, I just could not find a place

for them all as I had a lot of seedlings that I wanted to continue to grow to see what they would turn out to be like. I had some lights installed in the basement with the intentions of growing the violets down there. However, I soon found the sixty degree temperature was too cool for them so I tried some small begonias of the rhizomatous variety—mostly seedlings. In just a couple of weeks I could tell they liked the lights and the temperature. I moved all the violets upstairs again and filled the bench with begonias of several kinds. I have three forty watt tubes and some incandescent bulbs over the bench. The temperatures does not vary more than ten degrees winter and summer. Even on the hottest days in summer it never gets above seventy and on zero days in winter doesn't go much below sixty. I find it an ideal place for the begonias.

Most of the begonias were of the rhizomatous kinds and I was delighted with the way they grew. The leaf coloring was very beautiful and they grew very compact with shorter leaf and flower stems. They bloomed sooner than the ones in the windows. Flower clusters were not as large but the flower stems stuck straight up instead of lopping over as they usually do for me in the windows. Some of the plants were of a cross of *B. sunderbruchi* and "Stitched Leaf" and the leaves got very dark; some were almost black with the lovely pink flowers above.

Along with the rhizomatous begonias I had some of the double dark leaved *semperflorens* and they were really lovely. The leaves had a beautiful luster and the flowers a beautiful pink. The ones that were supposed to have red flowers were a deep pink instead. Calla lily begonias

*(Continued on Page 45)*

# Pots I Use for Rex and Why

By MRS. HOWARD L. WITHEE

REX BEGONIAS, I find, have a definite choice in pots, at least, for me they do. When one observes the characteristics of the root system of a begonia, the answer is very clear. One notes that on a young plant there are fine feeding roots that begin *en masse* at the very base of the plant, spreading out into the leaf-mold rooting medium.

As the plant increases in size, of course the roots become more numerous and somewhat larger and longer, yet there remains this network of spreading fine roots, which, when given the chance, spread out toward the edge of the pot. By allowing this natural tendency I have found that more leaves appear at the base of the plant rather than a less-leaved woody stalk, requiring much bracing. This is especially true if the plant is well fed with many large, lush leaves.

As a consequence of the above, I use all the clay bulb pots possible, fitting the various sizes of root systems. However, like all gardeners, I cannot always find

the correct pot in the type I prefer, and have to resort to the taller type, even though the plant does not shape up as well or look as nice. I stress clay pots only — I never use plastic pots for begonias, and replot immediately when a new plant is bedded in one. This is because begonias of all types must have aeration around their roots; plastic pots are nonporous and make this "must" impossible. In the plastic pot the top roots only can be aerated, and quite often I find the soil is soggy and more or less moldy on top. Too, I find the leaves are apt to have longer petioles than usual making an ungainly plant which lacks stamina. Indeed, many are the advantages gained in using the "old clay pot."

The roots of begonias are naturally spreading, they develop an astounding network which demands moisture at all times for the welfare of the plant as a whole, I find by supplying this vital factor the begonias flourish,

## Cover Article: *B. Macrophylla*

The cover picture this month was taken by Ralph Holtsizer, ABS member and staff photographer for the Philadelphia Inquirer, on a recent visit to the West Indies. Some years ago Mr. Holtsizer contributed a number of illustrated articles to *The Begonian*, as well as others outlining the photographing of begonias.

The begonia pictured has been identified by Rudolf Ziesenhenné as *B. macrophylla*, and was first found in Martinique in 1783. Originally named *B. macrophylla Lam.*, it was renamed eleven times, and was once named *martinicensis*. It was one of the earliest discovered begonias and it still grows in profusion in the rain forests and along the roads of Martinique. The Holtsizers used huge bunches of this lovely pinkish-

white flowered plant in their home during their visit.

Martinique, a French possession, is called the "Island of Flowers." It is situated between the British islands of Dominica and Santa Lucia, in the Caribbean, is mountainous and of volcanic nature with Mt. Pelee towering in the north.

Mr. Holtsizer reports that begonias were growing everywhere in this tropical paradise—many which he could not identify. Some had been planted in containers made of fern trunk sections, where they apparently thrived. He also noted *B. schmidtiana* growing in rocky formations and especially in the masonry of old stone bridges which span the rivers in the rain forest—where very little soil existed.

# The Amateur Gardener

By RUTHANNE WILLIAMS

THE AMATEUR Gardener must acquire knowledge of the fundamentals of gardening. He learns that there are several essentials necessary to good gardening. He must learn about soil, food, water and cultivation. Then he must learn to put the right plant in the right place.

So let us learn something about garden soil. If it is light and friable we are fortunate, but if it is heavy clay or adobe then much work is to be done to produce big blooms and healthy plants instead of mediocre ones.

Humus must be added to clay, adobe or sandy soil. The amount of humus that we add to our soil each year determines in a large measure our success or failure to grow beautiful flowers. The most common forms of humus used to make good garden soil are leafmold, manures and peat moss. As humus must be added year after year money may be saved by making our own humus. Such materials as fallen leaves, grass cuttings, and vegetable wastes may be composted or buried in various spots in the garden, all of which adds humus.

February is a wonderful month of promise of the Spring to come. The crocus are out in all their rainbow colors; the narcissus are blooming and possibly a few daffodils are enticing us into the garden. The acacia and almond blossoms are heralding the Spring with their fragrance and beauty. Bright sprays of Japanese Quince will add harmonizing color to our decorations for Saint Valentine's Day. The bare and slender boughs of the willow tree will soon all be tied with little green bows.

How fortunate we are in California to often enjoy a warm week or two in February in which to begin our gardening. We may begin our Spring gardening by scattering a generous amount of complete commercial fertilizer around the base of our narcissus and daffodils, water-

ing it in well. This will provide food for the flowers we hope to have next year for these flowers are now forming in the bulb.

February is also a good month to begin looking for azaleas in the nurseries. Choice of type and color may be made while they are now in bloom. Azaleas do best when planted in leafmold or peat moss with only just enough earth to anchor them securely. Plant them where they will be shaded from the afternoon sun.

February is the month to finish up the dividing and resetting of perennials and biennials. Most of the common types of these plants are now available in nurseries and should be set out soon. They include coreopsis, foxglove, coral bell, phlox, Canterbury bell and delphinium.

If you would give your garden every chance to thrive, now is the time to prune and spray. Garden pests are not readily evident at this time of year, however, their eggs and larvae are far from dead. You can eliminate them and various fungus diseases by dormant spraying. Lime sulphur, Bordeaux and Malathion are effective sprays to use now.

No doubt our friends in the middle west and eastern states are saying at this point, "These articles are not helpful to us as our climate is so different from that in California." But are they aware that no one could write garden articles which would be useful even to all California gardeners at a given time. California has a land area of 158,693 square miles. Within this area exists almost every possible combination and extreme of climate, soils and natural vegetation. Geographically California may be considered as having eight regions with their eight characteristic combinations of climate, soils and flora.

To travel fifty miles over the weekend and find one's self in a totally different  
*(Continued on Page 41)*

# Does 'Almost Anything Go'?

By ALICE MARY GREER

"ALMOST anything goes," remarked a visitor. We were viewing the outstanding exhibition recently staged by the Floral Designers Club, Inc., a group of twenty-five top arrangers from the Hollywood area. Yes, in that show almost anything, except poor execution, did go, for the designs were all blue-ribbon pieces; balance, dominance, contrast, proportion, rhythm, and scale were so scientifically blended in each of the many compositions and table settings that pleasing unity resulted.

What was new in the show? Nothing startlingly so, because there is nothing new in true art; principles never change; methods of execution may. Sculptured frills (white paper quills) serving as candle holders appeared new and interesting, though rather insignificant.

What was the trend? Simplicity—always the acme of good taste—restraint, a feeling for the out-of-doors and the harmony of Nature. Decidedly in all our arrangements these days we are swinging away from the mass type and are emphasizing the use of a small amount of plant material beautifully designed.

Underlying tone? A splendid sense of psychological color harmony. In certain compositions the rhythmic, restful color gradations were so beautifully executed that the effects were nearly perfect. Backgrounds and table covers were all in neutral tones.

Containers? Almost any type; many tall, long-necked French and Italian glass bottles. These always present an interesting problem, the design of the stems as seen through the glass, and the design standing free above the lip of the bottle. There were many low, naturalistic containers of driftwood, etc. As in all good compositions, the containers were so well chosen that they melted into the whole design and did not call for marked attention.

Plant material? We were happy to see

that, with a few exceptions, emphasis was placed upon the use of our everyday garden variety of material, that which we all have at hand and can gather in passing. One does not need to obtain the rare, the exotic, the costly in order to create beauty.

Yes, in flower composition "anything" *does* "go" if it helps express an idea—for heaven's sake not a bizarre one!—if it is in good taste, and if the design is infallible. Even if the rules of thumb are transitory, the principles of design are constant.

—B—

## *Arboretum Fund*

The following is a list of gifts to the Arboretum Fund:

San Gabriel Branch, Initial donation	\$100.00
San Gabriel Branch, Projects (Credit to Mrs. Edna Korts, Mrs. Ethel Arbuckle, and Riverside Branch—sale of 12 cans candy)	166.37
San Gabriel Valley—Individual Members	232.00
Inglewood Branch	5.00
Long Beach Parent	5.00
Glendale	5.00
El Monte	5.00
Hub City	14.00
Riverside	89.85
Dallas County	8.25
Individuals	
Marie Turner	18.79
Jean Kerlin	18.00
Members-at-large, East and Laguna Beach	7.50
San Gabriel Valley—Memorial to Frank Moore	9.50
Total	684.26
Interest from bank	15.74
Grand Total	\$700.00

Let's get together in 1958 and complete our project!

HOWARD A. SMALL, Chairman,  
A.B.S. Arboretum Glasshouse

## A Seasonable Reprint From N.B.S. Quarterly

ANOTHER begonia year is coming to a close in my garden and while it is still too soon for final conclusions I had best report while the spirit moves. This was by far the most successful year I have had. I grew some four thousand plants from seed, giving about half of them away to people who are growing them for the first time. I started the seed in early December, transplanted to one inch centers after six weeks and again transplanted to 2½" plant bands after about eight more weeks. I transplanted direct to the garden from the last of April to the middle of May. I took a bit of a chance on this last move as I could have had a bad loss from frost but my optimism paid off. The plants put a tremendous spurt of growth in those cool spring days. By June many of them started to bloom and by the first of July I had a fine display. The quality of the blooms from both the Blackmore and Langdon seed and from Vetterle and Reinelt in this country were much superior to any seedlings I have grown before. Mr. Reinelt has been working very hard on the picotees and the ruffled types. Some of his pictures with bright red edges on a pure white background are breathtaking. The ruffled types look like five and six inch diameter carnations only in a better range of colors than the carnations. Some of the

whites in the Blackmore and Langdon group were more vigorous and floriferous than any begonias I have ever seen. I also discovered a yellow B and L seedling with much the same coloring as J. Munson but with an even nicer form. Many of the English plants resembled the named varieties in my greenhouse sufficiently to indicate their parentage.

Here in Schenectady, some 200 miles inland, we are likely to have an occasional period when the night temperatures stay up in the high seventies and the eighties. One such period in June of this year had very little effect on my plants but a similar heat wave in late August almost completely spoiled the show for two weeks. They are beginning to recover from it now. In my opinion cool nights are about the most important single factor in the growth of tuberous begonias. Even dropping to the low forties at this time of year or when the seedlings are taking hold in the garden in May doesn't seem to have any ill effect in my garden.

To experiment on the effect of climate I had about five hundred of my seedlings planted on the eastern coast or Cape Cod where the evenings are nearly always cool and where there must be nearly as much fog as in England or our west coast. From exactly the same stock the coast grown plants had flowers averaging at least an

### New Originations in Rose Form and Ruffled

## TUBEROUS BEGONIAS



Exacting quality in color and form, from the prize-winning Pacific Strain originated by Frank Reinelt. The very finest obtainable!

Choice tubers now being shipped.

**Vetterle & Reinelt**

Dept. B Capitola, California

1958 COLOR CATALOG NOW AVAILABLE

inch larger in diameter. Their form was also better because there was no tendency to lose their doubleness. If any other growers find that their plants have a tendency to produce semidouble flowers in the late season I'd be inclined to blame the warm nights first of all.

I have proved this year to my entire satisfaction that there is no sense in burying a pot in the garden. Planting directly in the beds as I did this time appears to be vastly superior. My plants were somewhat crowded due to my desire to grow as many as possible but by mulching every bed with everything from grass clippings to shavings I eliminated every bit of stem rot which in other years has been heavy. Mite which have also been a nuisance in other years were kept under control with parathion. One very minor trouble has been the spotting of the topmost petal on the buds and I have finally placed the blame on house flies which seem to enjoy lighting on them. Someone else may have a better theory.

In my greenhouse I have now had continuous bloom of tuberous begonias for nearly thirty months. This is about the right time of year to start the extra lights which make winter blooming possible. If some members have had trouble growing begonias because of too much heat I'd suggest they try it in the winter under glass.

My best greenhouse subjects right now are Diana Wynyard, Wayne Parker, J. Munson, Everest, T. B. Toop, Ballet Girl, Rhapsody and some of my Vetterle and Reinelt picotees. One of the V and R ruffled pinks is the prettiest corsage flower I have ever seen.

Any members who have trouble with their cuttings rotting off before they root night try dipping the whole cutting in a Fermate solution before applying hormone powder to the stem. Those interested in propagating from cuttings should try growing plants under extra light because it makes the cutting season twelve months long. I always have some cuttings rooting.

One of the members once gave a little

## From the Mailbag

Oscar R. Cauldwell, of Avon Old Farms School, Avon, Conn., writes that he is subscribing to the *Begonian* in order to learn about begonia seeds and where to get them. They will be planted in a greenhouse at the school.

Ed: Read our Mrs. Gee's monthly Seed Fund pages, Mr. Cauldwell!

Nell M. Mulkey (Mrs. J. Steve) Dallas, Texas, while subscribing to the *Begonian*, writes to tell us that, as a National Flower Show Judge, she hopes to learn more of care, culture, and propagation of rex begonias through our columns.

A member in Montreal, Canada, Leo Roberts reports, as we can well understand, "half a success" with his begonias last year. However, he is persisting in effort and we hope to hear better reports next year.

Ed: Sounds to us like a real challenge—Montreal seems far north to a Southern Californian.

Now, to the South, and we hear from Mrs. Herbert K. Rhodes of Natchez, Miss., who, since retirement, is seeking knowledge of begonias, having more time now to pursue her hobby. Let us know how you fare, Mrs. Rhodes.

—B—

### SNEEZE (Asiatic)

I sneezed a sneeze into the air,  
It fell to ground I knew not where,  
But hard and cold were the looks of those  
In whose vicinity I snoze.

~~~~~  
list of the named varieties which had produced pollen for him. My list would include Harmony, Wayne Parker, T. B. Toop, Sunray, Pink Monarch and Jasmine.

It would be of tremendous interest to me if some member who is experienced in hybridizing would give some of his findings with regard to do dominant and recessive characteristics and whether there is a tendency for some characteristics to be dominant in the pollen and not in the seed parent or vice versa.

H. GILBERT HARLOW,  
*Schenectady, New York.*  
*Union College,*

# Seeds, Seedlings and Hybrids

By DON HORTON

THE SAGE advice that is always given to hybridizers and would-be hybridizers is to hybridize with a definite end result in mind. Unfortunately, this advice is often ignored. It is unfortunate because with proper planning better hybrids can be created in less time with less effort and with fewer "by-product" unworthwhile hybrids.

There are two avenues of planning. The longer sighted one is to decide what type of begonia—or whatever type of plant you are working with—you ultimately wish to obtain. For example, you desire to have a colorful small leaved begonia to grow as a window plant. You take two or more begonias each of which possesses one or more of the characteristics that you want in the final product. One plant may have small leaves but lack compactness, another plant may have compactness but lack color, and so on.

These plants are crossed and if the first generation progeny do not yield the planned begonia the hybrids can be crossed, selfed, backcrossed, etc., choosing the characteristics wisely until in a plant generation or two the wanted begonia finally appears. Some of the "by-product" begonias might be worthwhile and deserving of naming in their own right, but this is really unimportant considering the end result in mind.

The other method of planning hybrids is the short range one. Here the hybridist looks at two plants and decides (1) what will the hybrid between the two probably look like and (2) what desirable characteristics in the two plants could be combined to make what kind of a desirable plant.

If the hybridizer can see no practical result from the cross it is most likely a waste of time and effort to make it. Pollinating the flower, and harvesting and planting the seed is only a fraction of the work involved. Raising the seedlings to maturity takes a great deal of time and space so it is folly to put in all



B. "Kumwha"

that effort on anything but seed that have the greatest promise of good results.

Studying the plants and knowing which characteristics will most likely be dominant will certainly increase your chance of making wise choices for parents. To cite a few examples in the begonia line—*boweri* hybrids almost always have the black marks around the edge of the leaf, *kenworthyi* transmits the purplish color of its leaves, and *dayii* hybrids usually have the dark marks over the main veins.

Such a list could go on indefinitely if each hybridizer would contribute his own experiences, but by observing hybrids of known parents a fair idea of the dominant characteristics of those parents can be had.

*Begonia* "Kumwha" is a hybrid between *kenworthi* and "Reichenheimi." From one parent, *kenworthi*, it gets its dark coloring and a certain modification of the leaf form. From the other parent, "Reichenheimi," it gets its free blooming habit and large flowers held well above the foliage. It also obtains its large leaf from this parent.

Something that it gets from neither parent its great vigor. Quite often a hybrid possess that phenomenon known as hybrid vigor. When this occurs the hybrid grows easier and more vigorous than either of its parents.

Another example is that splendid

(Continued on Page 42)

# Begonias in Hawaii

By FANNIE CHEATHAM

THERE are a few well-known varieties that must have been introduced many years ago. In my more than 36 years of residing on the islands of Oahu and Kauai, I have always found the old gardens full of huge bushes in bloom all the year around, so that we took them for granted and did not pay much attention to their rank growth and beauty.

It was not until a trip to California several years ago, and after visiting real begonia gardens there, that I became an enthusiast. Upon returning home I went out and really looked at the begonias growing in my own yard.

There I found the *B. "Odorata Rosea"* and "*Odorata Alba*," enormous bushes as high as my head, covered with huge clusters of their pink and white flowers. I realized then that in all my visits to gardens around Southern California I had never seen this variety with such large, clear leaves, nor such big clusters of perfect flowers.

On the other hand, although my "*Coralline Lucernes*" were tall and healthy, I didn't think they were quite as full of bloom as some I had seen growing outdoors in San Diego.

My *B. "DeLesseps"* were very wonderful, huge perfect bushes, five and six feet high with a spread of ten feet. These were covered with their deep green, silver-spotted, copper-backed leaves and pendant clusters of pale flowers.

To my way of thinking, one very common and hardy begonia that we call "*Rubra Coral*" is our most gorgeous variety. It sends up stalks to a height of ten feet covered with long pointed light green leaves and masses of lovely hanging coral-colored flowers which hang on the year around.

All these varieties grow readily from cuttings which are just stuck in the ground, in any kind of garden soil, so that we consider no garden complete without them.

Then there are *B. "Feastii," "Bunchii,"* and "*Mrs. Townsend*," which make a very rank growth—all beautiful with dark green leaves and red underneath. They start blooming at Christmas, sending up tall spikes of pink blossoms and continuing for a good four or five months.

Of the thick-stemmed and procumbent type, we have quite a large number. In one beautiful garden just a few yards back from the beach I have seen *B. verschafeltii* and *ricinifolia* growing in the sandy soil in clumps eight or more feet across, with literally hundreds of pink stalks standing three feet tall. Here also were the *semperflorens* growing to perfection, but we have only a few varieties compared with the great number I saw in California. We use them for borders and for tucking around the base of tall shrubs.

One of our easily grown and free-blooming varieties is *B. diadema*, with silver-spotted leaves and pale pink flowers. This is one type that will not drop its seed pods. In fact, very few of our begonias do drop their pods so that they must be cut off to keep the plants from looking shaggy.

I have been growing begonias both at sea level and at one thousand feet elevation and while there seems to be no difference in their growth, the ones at the higher elevation take on more brilliant color.

In one old garden at about a thousand feet elevation I found a row of *B. odorata alba* planted near some trees. The begonias had grown up in the trees to a height of twelve feet and from there hung in huge clusters like a vine. They were covered with lovely white flowers, filling the air with their dainty perfume.

I have only a few rex, but they seem to be very easy to grow. I never give them any special care, but they do equally well in a lath house or out in the open. I think the largest rex I ever saw is growing

at the Volcano Hotel on Hawaii—no doubt it is planted in lava soil.

Of the wild varieties, I know only of three. On Kauai, the most northern island of the group, we have a very lovely variety growing. During the months of February, March, and April, the north side of the hills is covered with them. They grow in the leaf mold under the trees and their tubers are roundish and vary in size from a large walnut to a hen's egg. The pale green, succulent stem grows upright, two feet or more in height. The leaves are large and quite hairy, somewhat resembling a pumpkin leaf. The flowers bloom on the very tip of the plant and although they resemble *B. scharffiana*, they are much more delicate. There are three colors—bright pink, pale pink, and pure white—all having yellow stamens. I have never been able to find any seeds, and the tubers will not grow in our garden at sea level.

In the mountains on the island of Oahu, one may see a forest of palmfolios growing so thick and tall that it is necessary to cut a pathway through them. It is one of our most common kinds and is called "Bride's Bouquet." It is a rampant grower to the height of eight or ten feet and blooms all year. It is used a great deal as background in our gardens.

On the island of Hawaii it was my great pleasure to see the little *B. "Francini"* growing wild. Down at sea level it was clinging to the roots of the old palm trees or growing up the date trees at the base of the leaves, and on the north side of mossy stone walls. This variety I also found growing just as well at higher elevations, in disintegrated lava, along the edge of sugar cane fields.

In the city of Hilo, where it is colder in winter as snow covers the tops of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea, I found one of the Nelumbifoliae family growing to perfection. Huge clear leaves with tall stout stems of small, thick-petaled, waxy white flowers, having clear yellow stamens which made the whole plant look clean and healthy. It is used there for borders along the north side of buildings. It will not grow as well on Kauai.

## Calendar

- Feb. 3-March 31—Arboretum weekly class in Home Gardening.  
Feb. 4-March 25—Arboretum classes, "Botanical Sketching."  
Feb. 6-March 25—Arboretum classes, "Advanced Sketching."  
Feb. 4-April 1—Arboretum classes, "Beginning Plant Identification."  
Feb. 13—Orange County Branch—Tuberous Begonias, Garden Grove Grange Hall.

Plans are underway at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, for spring classes. The Arboretum would appreciate learning of the interest in such subjects as Home Gardening, Home Landscaping and Design, and Home Lawn Care.

—B—

The new Buxton Check List makes a fine gift for any occasion—be sure to put it in your list this year

—B—

Be not afraid of Life. Believe that life is worth living, and your belief will help create the fact.

No doubt there are many more varieties that one would find in the lovely gardens of Honolulu. I have tried to tell of the growth and habits of our common kinds. I feel sure that most of the beautiful varieties found in California lath houses would do equally well in Hawaii.

ED'S NOTE: The above was written by Mrs. Cheatham in answer to a request by the Editor in March, 1935. We thought it would be interesting to our readers in view of the many visitors to the Islands in recent years. We would be happy to hear from any of you about what has happened to begonias there in the ensuing twenty odd years. Won't you write us about your findings? A. B.

# Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

**No. 1 B. Calla Lily "Shasta Sunset"**—New crop. We are happy to offer seed of this popular begonia and we think there is enough to supply the demand however, please do not request more than one packet as we would like to fill all requests this time. This is a semperflorens type begonia of great beauty and charm; it is a hybrid and not all plants will be calla lily type. Habit of growth is low, bushy, and succulent, smooth and branched; slightly blotched with glistening white, more white appears toward the terminals, and the terminals are pure white suggesting a miniature calla lily. Flowers are vivid pink, terminals and flowers will take on a beautiful rosy glow if given plenty of strong light. This variety is much hardier and easier to grow than some of the older varieties and should be treated as any other semperflorens. .35 per pkt.

**No. 2 B. froebeli**—species—Collector's item. Habit of growth is low, soft-hairy; leaves green with lighter green veins, broad-ovate; flowers scarlet. Extremely attractive and requires warmth for full development. Blooms in winter. Seeds are from new crop but scarce. .50 per pkt.

**No. 3 B. venosa** Brazil, fibrous rooted plant covered with white scurf; soft succulent plant; flowers white with a spicy fragrance. A friend took time to pollinate blooms on her plant and collect seed for the seed fund. .35c per pkt.

Just before Christmas, we received a large package of begonia seed from Brazil. Some of them have appeared in the seed fund list before therefore, if you did not get them then, we are sure there is enough to fill all requests.

**No. 1 B. ramentacea**—Brazil—Erect stems, kidney shaped leaves, 10-12 nerved.

**No. 2 B. incisa**—Philippine species—Delicate and vinelike in appearance. Leaves are lacy and dark green with lighter green veins. Flowers white.

**No. 3 B. salicifolia**—A.D.C. Brazil—Bushy plant, leaves widely lanceolate.

**No. 4 B. heracleifolia**—Mexico—"Star begonia." Creeping rhizome, large, palmately lobed leaves, bronzy green with green ribs, flowers pink.

**No. 5 B. popenoci**—Honduras. Ascending rhizome with large, rounded bright green leaves, sparsely hairy, margins reddish toothed; large white flowers.

**No. 6 B. princeps**—Resembles B. Fernando Costae. .25c per pkt. on all above.

The seed fund files are becoming a little crowded with the following begonia seed which we offer you without charge. B. Manda's Woolly Bear and B. schmidtiana—Brazil—All fresh seed and yours without charge as long as they last however, if other seed are not requested, please send postage for free seed.

Semperflorens seed from England available now are: **B. Forest of Vaux**, dwarf compact, bright rose. **B. semperflorens Rose Queen**, masses of carmine-rose flowers like Glorie de Lorraine, one of the best for potting or for bedding. **B. semperflorens, Fireball**—A vivid carmine-scarlet on dark crinkled foliage; most unique—4 inches high. All semperflorens—.25c per pkt.

**Greenhouse plants—Episcia dianthiflora**—Mexico—Small elliptic, vivid to dark green, crenate leaves with purple midrib in a miniature rosette, sending out prolific rooting branches; many glistening white, deeply fringed flowers, appearing singly in the leaf axils. .35c per pkt.

**Plectranthus oertendahlia** — (Natal) Fleshy creeper with angled stems and small, broad leaves, medium green to bronzy, patterned with a net work of silvery veins, the slightly crenate margins purple, the surface short hairy, older leaves are slightly purple, bilabiate (divided into two equal lips) flowers pink. .35c per pkt.

**Streptocarpus wendlandii** — (Natal) Stemless plant with a single, huge leaf becoming 3 feet long and 2 feet wide, with olive-green corrugated, densely hairy surface purple beneath; the tall flowers spikes sprouting from the leaf may bear as many as 30 small, violet-blue flowers. Exotic. .25c per pkt.

New Zealand fern spores that have just reached us.

**No. 1 Adiantum hispidulum**—"Rosy Maidenhair." This fern differs from the other maidenhairs in the stiff appearance of the fronds, their broad fan-shaped

outline, the bright red color of the young leaves, and its habit of growing in the open. Rhizomes are short, stout, creeping. Fronds broad, six to twelve inches or more across, widely fan shaped, green to olive-green, often bright red or reddish-brown when young.

**No. 2 *Blechnum fluviatile***—A very handsome, decorative species, hardy and easily grown, showing to perfection when the narrow dark green fronds fall over the edge of a flower pot and form a crown-like setting to the tall, erect fronds in the center.

**No. 3 *Polystichum vestitum***—Terrestrial plant, forming a handsome crown of radiating leaves.

**No. 4 *Blechnum discolor***—An ex-

ceedingly handsome species, growing in great tufts sometimes as much as six feet across; the broad barren fronds on the outside, the fertile fronds standing erect in the center.

**No. 5 *Blechnum patersoni***—A very striking dark green fern, with broad leaves either or deep cut four to twelve times. Requires shade and moisture—not common.

**No. 6 *Polystichum richardi***—A species easily grown, not averse to hot sunshine; one that sows itself in its native country. The unrolling crook is a speckled grey color, maturing quickly and producing spores when very young.

**No. 7 *Rumohra hispida***—Syn. *Polystichum hispidum*. "Hairy Fern." The most beautiful of the genus in New Zealand. It is easily cultivated, sending up its perfect fronds with the same regularity in the fernery as it does in the forest. The colors of the young fronds are indescribably beautiful, several shades appearing on the plants simultaneously—light shiny green, pale golden brown with emerald tips, bronze-green shaded off into lighter hues at the margins. Requires good drainage and a fair amount of shade and ample room for its long rhizomes.

**No. 8 *Sticherus cunninghamii***—Syn. *Gleichenia cunninghamii* — "Tapu-wae-kotuku." (The footprints of the white heron) "Umbrella Fern." A very handsome and distinct species. Fronds are dark green spreading out from the center not unlike a star-fish. Not easy to grow.

**No. 9 *Ctenitis decomposita***—Syn. *Dryopteris decomposita*—A pretty, soft-green fern varying considerably in size. Usually found growing in alluvial soil in damp locations.

**No. 10 *Leptopteris hymenophylloides***—A soft feathery fern, leaves very finely cut and nearly transparent. Not difficult to grow if transplanted young, provided with good shade, and protected from wind.

**No. 11 *Doodia media***—Small fern

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Old Lists of *Begonia* Names  
Also Lists of *Praetorius Begonias*  
by Nomenclature Director  
**Mrs. Edna Korts**

with fronds twelve to eighteen long by one and one and a half to four inches broad, color is dark green. When once established it does not mind hot sun and a few weeks' drought.

**No. 12 *Pellea rotundifolia***—(Round leaved) Small fern with fronds six to fourteen inches long to three quarters to one and one half inches broad, dark green and shining. Should have moisture and shade.

We have a great many of each variety of the above mentioned spores and as an inducement for you to try them, we are offering them at a special price. All twelve varieties for \$2.50 or .25c per single pkt.

**Other genera—*Scabiosa webbiana***—perennial—Everblooming, free flowering, creamy white.

***Iris Kaempferi***—Japanese iris. Easily grown from seed and will bloom the second year from seed. Mixed colors.

***Hedychium gardnerianum***—K a h i l i ginger. Beautiful and desirable with delight fully fragrant yellow flowers with long red stamens. Readily grown from seed and will bloom the first year from seed. Not to be grown outdoors in cold climates.

***Lobelia illumination***—D a r k leaves, large spikes of vivid scarlet flowers.

Other genera .25c per pkt.

**B. Tuberous—mixed**—We still have ample supply of tuberous seed and there

## The Amateur Gardener

(Continued From Page 32)

climate and scenery makes Californians aware of the great diversity and climatic range of their State. Mount Whitney, 14,496 feet high, is only 75 miles from our lowest point of 282 feet below sea level in Death Valley. Parts of the southern portion of our state have semi-tropical climate while the mountain and great valley temperatures range from 114 degrees to below freezing. Of course all of our regions do not have this great variation, however, they do differ considerably in climate and temperature and these articles must be applied to the climate and month or time of year most suitable to your region.

## A Garden

God made a garden  
To rest his eyes  
After the pattern  
Of earth and skies.

God made a garden,  
Because He saw  
Life was good,  
By a garden's law.

Flowers for love,  
And fruitful trees,  
Body and soul,  
May grow with these.

And the things you see;  
In the garden row,  
God planted them there  
To tell you so.

ANONYMOUS

is time to start them for next summer.  
.25c per pkt.

Also have a few seed of ***Clivia Belgian hybrids*** that should be started now. These are beautiful plants with wide, dark green, strap leaves and large clusters of orange-red flowers borne on tall stems. Easily grown from seed. Two seed for .25c.

Mrs. Florence Gee  
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# Camellias Bloom

CAMELLIAS of the Japonica variety are now in bloom at Los Angeles County's Descanso Gardens in La Canada, providing a glorious display of colorful flowers. The Japonica season will continue until the end of April according to Gardens Superintendent John Threlkeld.

Among the appealing Japonicas at Descanso is the "Conflagration," a giant, red, loose peony type.

Other current favorite Japonicas are "Lallarook," a pink formal fused with white; "Hanafuki," a soft pink, large cupped demi-double, lotus shaped flower; "Mrs. Tingley," a light pink formal with fluorescent glow; "Berenice Boddy," a single pink prolific bloomer, which was developed at Descanso.

As the gorgeous camellias break into bloom at Descanso Gardens, plans are proceeding for the March 1 to 9 Annual Camellia Show.

Operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, Descanso Gardens is located at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada.

—B—

## Hybrids . . .

(Continued From Page 36)

hybrid of Susie Zug's, Emerald Jewel. This is a hybrid of *imperialis* that is very similar to it but grows with great ease, whereas *imperialis* is difficult even in a greenhouse.

I would be very glad to hear about your hybridizing experiences and pass your findings along in future articles. Also, I have had a request to obtain information on hybridizing double semperflorens so would especially like to hear from any of you who have worked with them.

683 Congress St.  
Costa Mesa, Calif.

ED.: See *The Begonian*, Dec. '56, Page 278, for further information on B. "Kumwha."

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R U T H E R F O R D , N . J .

# Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

## EAST BAY

Following is a list of the new officers for 1958: President, Mrs. Doris Clute; Vice-president, Mrs. T. H. Staples; Secretary, Mrs. E. H. Ellerbusch; Treasurer, Floyd Jensen; Nat'l. Rep., Mrs. Stewart Smith.

—B—

## EL MONTE

El Monte branch officers for 1958 include: George Getze, 1121 Azalea, Alhambra, president; Daisy Morrow, 2821 N. Musgrove Ave., El Monte, vice president; Gladys Mattuket, 314 N. Rural Dr., Monterey Park, notional representative.

—B—

## INGLEWOOD

Sylvia Leatherman was the speaker at the January meeting, showing slides of her fern trip. She gave many of her invaluable "pro" tips and also supplied some very desirable specimens for the plant table. The Study club met Jan. 14 at the home of Mrs. Nellie May, and the Executive board met on the 23rd at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Lueck. Bill Kirker, 1547 W. 122nd St., Los Angeles 47, is our new president.

—B—

## LONG BEACH PARENT

The January meeting of the Long Beach Parent branch took the form of a fine hamburger fry with all the trimmings at the home of the Paul Walkers in Long Beach. The event also featured our birthday cake. The 24 members and guests present included President and Mrs. Frank Coe and Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Walton, our nat'l. membership secretary. New officers were installed by the President and included Mrs. Winifred Caseley, president; Harry Miller, vice president; Mrs. William Cox, secretary; Mrs. Hugh Hixon, treasurer; Mrs. G. G. White, national representative.

## MISSOURI

Our Christmas party was held Dec. 10, which was also our regular meeting date, at the home of Mrs. Amy Brashears. New officers for 1958 were installed including: Mrs. Helen Ware, president; Mrs. Chris Ebert, vice president; Mrs. Grace Lucas, treasurer; Mrs. Hattie Taylor, secretary; Mrs. Anna Hyatt, nat'l. director.

—B—

## ORANGE COUNTY

Tuberous begonias, "first love" of many begonia fanciers and a favorite with the general public, will be featured at the Orange County branch meeting Feb. 13 at 8 p.m. in Garden Grove Grange Hall, Century and Taft Streets.

Glenn Motschman, past president of the A.B.S. and an amateur who has conducted some interesting experiments in forcing early tuberous bloom, will be the speaker, it was announced by Mrs. Owen Halling, vice-president and program chairman.

—B—

## PHILOBEGONIA

Met at the home of Mrs. Ralph DeCou, 107 Potter St., Haddonfield, N. J. Friday, December 13th, 1957, for its annual Christmas party. Luncheon was served amid beautiful holiday settings—a short playlet was given by members, following a delicious luncheon. Christmas gifts arrived — in gay wrappings. Our Program Chairman announced plans for our study beginning in January, and our President gave out some tiny little plants grown from seeds which she brought back from her last trip to California.

The slate of officers for the coming year includes Mrs. Alfred Bailey, president; Mrs. R. E. York, vice president and national representative; Mrs. Ralph DeCou, secretary; Mrs. Curtis Paschall, treasurer; Mrs. William J. Browning, II, historian; Mrs. Charles Allen, program chairman.

## REDONDO AREA

George Martini was the guest speaker at our recent meeting. After a very informative lecture about Philodendrons the Branch held the annual election of officers. Elected for 1958 were: Mrs. Lucy Sault, president; Mrs. Alice Martin, first vice president; Olin Eipper, second vice president; Mrs. Pearl Riggles, secretary; Mrs. Lucille Terry, treasurer; Mrs. Margaret Buell, national rep., Joe Taylor, public relations.

—B—

## RIVERSIDE

Riverside branch had their Christmas party at Shamel House and, after election of officers, enjoyed a demonstration of holiday arrangements by Jean Symons. There was a plant and garden gadget exchange and delicious buffet refreshments from a beautifully decorated table.

New officers for 1958 are Lillian Maddox, president; Dorothy Cardell, vice president; Kay Elmore, recording secretary; Ethel Prior, corresponding secretary; Rowland Maddox, treasurer; R. H. Terrell, representative to national; Mary Gillingwaters, alternate.

—B—

## SACRAMENTO

Time and Place: 8:00 p.m., December 17, 1957 at the Sacramento Garden Center.

Hostesses: May Sullivan, Dora Fitch, Ann Huss and Ada Kelso.

The following officers were installed Dec. 17, at our Christmas meeting: President, Clarence Fallon; Vice-President, Esther Long; Secretary, Edna Watkins; Treasurer, Al Smith; Director of Programs, Herb Fitch; Director of Hostesses, Mae Fehr; Director of Plants, Fred Wells; Director of Publicity, Ada Kelso.

We are so happy to welcome our new members, Cynthia and Ken Morris from Loomis.

—B—

### **COPY DEADLINE**

All copy for The Begonian must be received by the editor not later than the **first of the month preceding** date of publication.

## SAN DIEGO

The names of the Officers of the San Diego Branch of the American Begonia Society for 1958 are: President, Charles T. Williams, 4240 46th St., San Diego, 15, Calif.; Vice-President and Program Chairman, Mrs. Ida Barker, 7591 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, Calif.; Secretary, Mrs. Leah Jones, 120 Upas Street, San Diego, 4, Calif.; Treasurer, Mrs. Emma Engelbrecht, 4562 Kensington Dr., San Diego, 16, Calif.; Nat'l. Representative, Mrs. Helen Bailey, 4535 50th St., San Diego, 15, Calif.; Junior Past President, Mrs. Callie Owen, 4550 Kensington Dr., San Diego, 16, Calif.; Directors, Mrs. Blanche Roat, 321 West Lewis St., San Diego, 3, Calif.; Mrs. Jane Mitchell, 2878 Lincoln Ave., San Diego, 4, Calif.; Harper Kelly, 3669 Louisiana St., San Diego, 4, Calif.

—B—

## WILLIAM PENN

The November meeting of the William Penn Branch of the ABS was held at the home of Mrs. J. Packard Laird, in Paoli. Mrs. George DeCoursey reported on the begonia show she helped to judge in Boston where there were several begonias from California which are not familiar to us here. Mrs. Kurtz brought B. chelanthus for us to examine. This was in bloom, a lovely shade of red, and most appropriate for the Christmas season. This was new to all of us and we were particularly eager to know about it. The following officers were elected to serve for the next two years: President, Mrs. Channing Way; Vice Pres., Mrs. Thomas H. Lewis; Sec.-Treas., Miss Margaret Robins; Rep. Dir., Mrs. Ernest C. Drew.

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# Growing Begonias Under Fluorescents

*(Continued From Page 30)*

also grew very nice under the lights. This winter I have some cane seedlings that are red under and are silver splashed and the silver spots look like old rose coloring on top of the leaf. I had some tall canes that were blooming when I brought them in. I sat them on the floor close to the bench and they kept right on blooming all winter but they did look rather straggly last spring but I cut them back and after a summer outdoors they are again back in the basement and most of them are blooming. I also had several of the ordinary single flowered semperflorens that I wanted to save and they nearly bloomed themselves to death under an ordinary incandescent bulb, but I believe they would have been fine under daylight tubes. This winter I have more lights installed but these are in my upstairs plant room, and are to supplement the natural daylight on these dark cloudy days that we have. These lights have two forty watt tubes and two twenty-five watt incandescent bulbs in each fixture. They are the plug in type so I can move them wherever I want to. My plant room is about 14 by 14 feet square and has two large windows that are four feet wide, one on the east side and one on the south. I have these lights hung from the ceiling so I can raise or lower them and one is on the west and the other on the north side of the room. This room does not have any heat except from the hall. I have grown very good begonias there without the artificial light but I am hoping for some nice results with the added light. On sunny days I will not need to have them on at all. I will be able to tell you more about my results next spring. Have always wanted a green house but now I am not so sure since my light set up is much cheaper to operate during these cold winter months. This winter I am using the basement space for growing some ferns also.

# Branch Meeting Dates . . .

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

## **BRITISH BRANCH**

F. J. Bedson, Secy.  
Kent, England

## **CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH**

4th Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Leo Spengler, Cor. Secy.  
15 West Preston Ave., Orlando, Fla.

## **DALLAS COUNTY BRANCH, TEXAS**

1st Thursday, 7:00 p.m.  
Members' Residences  
Mrs. Ruth Cook  
923 S. Edgefield, Dallas 8, Texas

## **EAST BAY BRANCH**

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.  
Willard School, Telegraph at Ward,  
Berkeley, California  
Mrs. E. H. Ellerbusch, Secy.  
1051 Ordway, Berkeley 6, Calif.

## **EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH**

3rd Friday, Members' Homes  
Daisy Morrow, Cor. Secy.  
2821 N. Musgrove Ave., El Monte, Calif.

## **FOOTHILL BRANCH**

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
La Verne Community Bldg.  
2039 Third St., La Verne  
Mrs. C. W. Hall, Cor. Secy.  
358 E. Arrow Hwy., Upland, Calif.

## **FORT, ELSA BRANCH**

1st Saturday, 1:30 p.m.  
Miss Lola Price, Secy.  
628 Beech Ave., Laurel Springs, N.J.

## **GLENDALE BRANCH**

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central  
Mrs. Cleo Price, Cor. Sec.  
377 Myrtle, Glendale 3, Calif.

## **GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH**

3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.  
Community House, La Jolla  
Mrs. Charles Calloway  
1311 Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, Calif.

## **GRAY'S HARBOR BRANCH**

2nd Monday, 8:00 p.m.  
Hoquiam Public Library, or  
Messingale and Rosenear Music Store  
Aberdeen, Washington  
Mrs. Jessie B. Hoyt, Secy.  
1013 Harding Road, Aberdeen, Wash.

## **GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH**

4th Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Adolph Belser, Cor. Secy.  
Welsh and Veree Rd., Philadelphia, Pa.

## **HAWKEYE STATE BRANCH**

3rd Friday, Members' Homes  
Ruth Anderson, Secy.  
Underwood, Iowa

## **HOLLYWOOD BRANCH**

3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. J. C. Jenks  
6807 DeLongpre Ave.  
Los Angeles 28, Calif.

## **HOUSTON, TEXAS BRANCH**

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.  
Garden Center, Herman Park  
Mrs. B. A. Russell, Secy.  
5926 Jackwood, Houston 36, Texas

## **HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH**

2nd Monday, 8:00 p.m.  
Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif.  
Miss Margaret Smith, Secy.  
P.O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

## **INGLEWOOD BRANCH**

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.  
Inglewood Women's Club  
325 North Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.  
Mima A. Rich, Secy.  
2022 W. 84th Place, Los Angeles 47, Cal.

## **LONE STAR BRANCH**

3rd Monday, members' homes  
Mrs. Chester Terry, Secy.  
5511 Richmond Ave., Dallas, Texas

## **LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER**

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
1925 Maine Ave., Long Beach 6, Calif.  
Mrs. Rosa Cox, Sec.  
3592 Lewis Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

## **LOS ANGELES BRANCH**

4th Wednesday, Homes of Members  
Mrs. Margaret Fenn, Secy.  
2103A Warfield, Redondo Beach, Calif.

## **LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH**

First Friday, Homes of Members  
Mrs. Thos. O. Day, Secy.  
4065 Hollywood St., Baton Rouge, La.

## **MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH**

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
Mrs. Ray Rosengren, Secy.  
5530 N.W. 21 Ave., Miami, Fla.

## **MISSOURI BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.  
World War Memorial Bldg.  
Linwood and Paseo  
Mrs. Hattie Taylor, Secy.  
P.O. Box 25, Raytown, Mo.

## **NEW ENGLAND BRANCH**

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members  
Mrs. Lester H. Fox, Secy.  
170 Marsh Hill Road, Dracut, Mass.

## **OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY BRANCH**

1st Tuesday, 12:30 p.m., members' homes  
Mrs. Anna Peck, Secy.  
23 So. Gateway, Toms River, N.J.

## **ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH**

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Garden Grove Grange Hall  
Century and Taft Streets  
Garden Grove, Calif.  
Mrs. Lionel Evans, Secy.  
10381 Orangewood, Garden Grove, Calif.

## **PASADENA BRANCH**

Meetings on call.  
Homes of Members  
Col. C. M. Gale, Secy.  
40 N. San Rafael, Pasadena 2, Calif.

## **PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH**

2nd Friday, Members' Homes  
Mrs. Ralph DeCou, Secy.  
107 Potter St., Haddonfield, N.J.

## **PORTLAND, OREGON BRANCH**

4th Friday, 8:00 p.m.  
Members' Homes  
Mrs. Helen Parrott, Secy.  
3955 S.E. Kelly, Portland 2, Oregon

## **RAYTOWN, MISSOURI BRANCH**

4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Mildred Schorr, Secy.-Treas.

**REDONDO BEACH AREA BRANCH**

4th Friday each month  
2308 Rockefeller, Redondo Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Pearl Riggles, Secy.  
2042 Kathy Way  
Torrance, Calif.

**RIVERSIDE BRANCH**

2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Shamel Park, 3650 Arlington,  
Riverside, California  
Mrs. Ethel Prior, Sec.  
4345 5th St., Riverside, Calif.

**ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH**

3rd Friday, 10:30 a.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Harlie Brown  
3233 Tennyson, San Diego 6, Calif.

**SACRAMENTO BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Mrs. Leslie H. Watkins, Secy.  
3070 Land Park Dr.  
Sacramento 18, Calif.

**SAN DIEGO BRANCH**

4th Monday  
Hard of Hearing Hall,  
Herbert & University  
Mrs. Leah Jones, Secy.  
120 Upas St., San Diego 4, Calif.

**SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH**

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Forest Lodge, 266 Laguna Honda Blvd.  
Mrs. Louise Allmacher  
1963 45th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH**

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.  
Arcadia, California  
Mrs. E. F. Slavik, Sec.  
300 Hacienda Dr., Arcadia, Calif.

**SAN MIGUEL BRANCH**

1st Wednesday  
Youth Center, Lemon Grove, Calif.  
Ida M. Barker, Secy.  
7591 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, Calif.

**SANTA BARBARA BRANCH**

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Girl Scout Clubhouse,  
1838 San Andres St.  
Mrs. Maria Sanchez, Secy.  
1753 Glen Oaks Dr., Santa Barbara, Calif.

**SEATTLE BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.  
Green Lake Field House  
7201 Green Lake Way  
Mrs. Carl Starks, Secy.  
6116 Greenwood, Seattle 3, Wash.

**SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BR.**

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Alice Bartlett C.H., 902 E. Main,  
Ventura, Calif.  
Mrs. Oakley Murphy, Secy.  
119 E. Simpson, Ventura, Calif.

**SMOKEY VALLEY BRANCH**

3rd Thursday of each month  
John C. Irving, Cor. Secy.  
1940 Simmons, Salina, Kan.

**SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BR.**

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
Strowbridge School Multi-Purpose Rm.  
21400 Bedford Dr., Hayward, Calif.  
Mae Bolyard, Cor. Secy.  
2425 Thornton Ave., Newark, Calif.

**TALL CORN STATE BRANCH**

Mrs. Edna Monson, Secy.  
South Taylor, Mason City, Iowa

**TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH**

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m.  
Homes of Members, Ft. Worth, Texas  
Mrs. Joe X. Schad, Secy.  
Rte. 1, Box 17, Saginaw, Texas

**TEXAS STATE BRANCH**

1st Tuesday night in members' homes  
Mrs. William Demland, Secy.  
2400 19th St., Port Arthur, Texas

**TREASURE ISLAND BRANCH**

4th Monday, 7:30 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs Harold Renshaw, Secy.  
2521 37th St., Galveston, Texas

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH**

2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Albert S. Lash, Cor. Secy.  
1228 Oklahoma Ave., Pittsburgh 16, Pa.

**WHITTIER BRANCH**

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Palm Park Community Center,  
1643 Floral Drive  
Mrs. Pearl Benell, Secy.  
10331 Colima Rd., Whittier, Calif.

**WILLIAM PENN BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, 2:00 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Ernest C. Drew, Sec.  
Box 331, Narberth, Pa.

(Ed.: If your Branch has elected new officers, will you send in any changes so that this record may be kept current? Please include FULL address of your secretary. Thank you.)

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